

sules . . . containing the active principles of gum benzoin and of the essential oil of gurjun." From this who can tell what the stuff contains and in what amounts? Is there a pathologist in the country who could be found to endorse the statement that it is a "perfect genito-urinary disinfectant"? Gentlemen of the Trustees, are the few dirty dollars which the Association receives for this advertisement an equivalent for the loss of dignity, honor and prestige which results from the spectacle of the great American Medical Association advertising and promoting the use of such nostrums?

The Committee on Scientific Program for the next meeting of the State Society at Riverside April 18th to 20th, has pretty well blocked out the work. The three mornings of the session will be devoted to general symposiums. One morning will be given up to subjects of a general sanitary nature, as the report of the Committee on Tuberculosis with correlated papers, Medical Education and Legislation, the milk question, etc. Another morning will be given to a discussion of the Gallbladder and Ducts, divided into four general divisions; Diagnosis, Pathology, Medical Treatment and Surgical Treatment. The third morning will be occupied by a symposium on Typhoid Fever, the subject being divided as follows: Etiology and Epidemiology; Paratyphoid; Surgery, (a) Immediate, and (b) Secondary; Genito-Urinary Complications; Treatment. Some of the papers and opening discussions on these subjects will be provided for by the Committee, but it is desired to have a few additional papers. The Committee therefore requests that *members who desire to present papers on any of the subjects covered in these symposiums will kindly send in their names and the titles of their prospective papers, at once.* They must be received *not later than February 1st* in order to be considered, for otherwise the program will be filled by the Committee. Two of the afternoons will be devoted to papers on the various special subjects, Surgery, Medicine, Obstetrics, Gynecology, Genito-Urinary Diseases, Pediatrics, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Diseases, Dermatology, etc. A few papers will be asked for by the Committee, but it is expected that most of them will be volunteered. All members desiring or intending to present papers are requested to *send in their names and the titles of their papers at once, or the program will be filled.* This information should reach the Committee not later than February 1st. It is announced that the program will be more limited in the number of papers than in previous years, so that all may be presented, and each author will be required to state the amount of time his paper will take (which may not exceed twenty minutes), and will be strictly held to that time limit. From present indications, the Riverside meeting will be one of the

best in the history of the Society and it certainly promises to be one which those who attend will long remember.

The *British Medical Journal* with its issue for November 12th, publishes a supplement illustrating the full Japanese soldier's outfit; **THE PITY OF IT ALL.** it also has a long and very interesting editorial on the subject. We cannot refrain from extracting some sentences from this editorial comment. "It is difficult to know whether to admire most the thoroughness or the ingenuity with which the health and comfort of the men serving in a country which is in summer very hot and in winter very cold have been considered." "But the excellence of the clothing served out and its perfect adaption to the climatic conditions to be encountered is only one instance of the wise forethought displayed by those who are responsible for the health of the Japanese soldier in war and for his care when wounded." In reading the description of the outfit one is struck with the emphasis placed upon "the excellent quality of the material used." And there is the pity of it! That one should be *surprised* because the very best material is used in fabricating the clothing for the common soldier—the man at the front. Contrast the downright honesty of the Japanese commissariat, the fine wool blankets combining warmth with lightness; the lamb's wool toe socks for extreme cold weather; the beautifully woven underwear; the rice and other foodstuffs, of which only the best is accepted: compare these with our own embalmed beef, our actually rotten and rotting tinned pork and beans, our poor shoddy cloth, our glove scandal, the thousand and one instances of "graft, graft, graft." The existence of surprise is indicative of a widespread demoralization that is appalling in its tragic significance. So accustomed are we to corruption that simple honesty excites our surprise; graft we look upon as naturally to be expected.

Some months ago the JOURNAL published an editorial with this caption. It referred to a manufacturing concern that put out a preparation and published a lieing formula. **NASTY FRAUD.** At first they said it contained "lithium methaminate", and when we found that this was simply an outrageous insult to one's intelligence, that there is no such chemical, we mentioned the fact editorially and expressed our views on the standing of a concern that would do such a thing. The advertisement with the absurd "formula" was appearing in the *Journal of the A. M. A.* also, and when this matter came out the "formula" was dropped; but the *Journal* continued to print the advertisement. For some months the "ad" was run without any formula, but in a recent issue of the *Journal* we note that a new "formula" has made its appearance. This time the same identical name is used for the stuff

—uriseptin—but it is said to contain “Lithium Comp. with amido-formaldehyd”. On inquiry we are advised that this is quite as meaningless to the chemist and pharmacist as was the imaginary chemical first given as entering into the composition of the “remedy” (Heaven save the mark—a remedy!) in question. We are assured by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the A. M. A. that a verified formula is filed with the copy for each and every advertisement of a proprietary mixture. If that is the case it is certainly imperative that the Trustees discharge the person who “verified” the formulas which this concern is filing with the Association. It is ludicrous, or would be if it were not so pitifully undignified, to see the great American Medical Association so carried away with “frenzied finance” that it must needs sell the Association’s birthright for a mess of pottage!

The California State Nurses Association has had prepared a bill which is to be introduced in the legislature, providing for **REGISTRATION OF NURSES.** registration of graduate and qualified nurses. The text of the bill has been submitted to a number of attorneys and prominent physicians and has received their approval. At the December meeting of the San Francisco County Medical Society the matter was presented and a resolution passed endorsing the proposed law. This certainly seems to be an excellent and progressive measure. At the last meeting of the British Association similar action was taken and a resolution prevailed recommending to Parliament that the Nurses Registration Act be passed. Any measure that tends to elevate or improve the standards of any profession should receive the approval and the endorsement of those in other professions, for what aids one, aids the others. The JOURNAL is very glad to note this action and certainly wishes the nurses every success in their efforts.

The general condition of harmony in the medical profession on the subject of “hands off” the medical law, is very encouraging. **DANGER FROM OUR FRIENDS** It looks, at the present writing, as though enemies of the law as it is, will have a well nigh impossible task if they undertake to amend it to its detriment. But there is one danger that must be recognized and guarded against—“improvements” that may be suggested by gentlemen who may be undoubtedly honest in their mistaken motives. We are advised that a letter has been written to a member of the Board of Examiners asking the endorsement of the board on a proposed amendment to the law, striking out the words “in discharge of his professional duties,” referring to medical officers of the Army and Navy and Marine Hospital Services. At present these gentlemen cannot legally practice outside of their official work unless they comply with the laws of

the State in which they are located. The matter was called to the attention of the Surgeon General who advised the board that medical officers were so instructed, and that the matter would naturally come before the local courts. There are very many reasons why this amendment should not be even suggested, let alone enacted. In the first place it would endanger the constitutionality of the whole act, for it would be special legislation. It would allow these very estimable officers to seriously effect the practices of men who have complied with the law. If these medical officers are desirous of practicing in California, and if they are competent, let them take the examination before the Board of Examiners and get a license just the same as anybody else. This is the most vicious proposed amendment that has come to our attention; kill it promptly and bury it deep.

#### “MY SON, MAKE MONEY; HONESTLY, IF YOU CAN, BUT—MAKE MONEY.”

Let us once more glance at the financial statement made by the Trustees of the A. M. A. at the last meeting and see whether further understanding may have come from reflection. In August the STATE JOURNAL criticised the financial statement; we disagreed with the Trustees in crediting the profit of the Association (some \$38,000) to the *Journal*, and asserted that this profit should properly be credited to members’ dues and was the remainder after paying from the dues collected the expenses of the Association and some \$14,000 to the *Journal* account. We also called the attention of the Trustees to the fact that the Association *Journal* was not being conducted in a very ethical manner, and that it openly violated those ethical principles which have been promulgated by the Association for the guidance of physicians.

To these words of criticism the Chairman of the Board of Trustees took exception. His letter in reply to them was printed in the November *Journal*, and after reading carefully his letter, it would seem that Dr. Happel has clearly demonstrated the truth of our original contention. For the time being the portion of the correspondence relating to the quality of advertising in the A. M. A. *Journal* will not be discussed, except to say that up to the present time the Trustees have not published a statement, as we requested, setting forth when and where the formulas we mentioned were published in the pages of the *Journal*.

On page 329 of the November *Journal* Dr. Happei says:

“I am surprised that you will attempt to make your readers believe that the “dues” is no part of the *Journal* income. You do not appear to be aware of the fact that the \$63,237.48 entered as membership dues is the amount paid by members of the association as subscribers to the *Journal*, receiving the *Journal* by virtue of paying their membership fees of \$5.00 each year and that for 1903 the above amount of \$63,237.48 was collected.”

While the above quotation is a little confused, Dr. Happel appears to be trying to make the dues appear as subscriptions to the *Journal*. If this were true, all subscribers might claim membership, for they could claim that membership cost nothing and was a sort of premium attached to subscription. As a matter of fact, the reverse is the case; membership costs \$5 a year, and the *Journal* is sent as a part of the benefit attaching to such membership. Quite naturally a portion of the membership fee should be paid over to the *Journal* to cover the cost of sending the publication to each member; let us see what this amount is: The report states that \$63,237.48 was received from members’ dues, less collections. It also states that the Association expenses, aside from publication expenses, amounted to approximately \$11,000, which amount is properly chargeable to the